

Accession No. 2015.149

James and Albertine Pullman Photograph Collection

Dates: c.1902-1972

Creator: Pullman, Albertine (1905-2005)

Extent: 0.25 linear feet

Level of description: Folder

Processor & date: Chris Barbuschak, October 2018

Administration Information

Restrictions: None

Copyright: Consult repository for information

Citation: James and Albertine Pullman Photograph Collection, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Provenance: Unknown

Separations: None

Administrative History or Biographical Sketch

James Frederick Pullman was born in Alexandria, Virginia on January 1, 1895 to Oliver Sidney Pulman (1866-1903) and Catherine "Kate" A. Webster (1872-1963). He was one of five children. James Pullman's great-grandfather, Thomas Pulman (1806-1883), immigrated with his son Oliver Cromwell Pulman (1840-1891) from Yorkshire, England arriving in Philadelphia on September 23, 1850. By 1860, both men made their residence in Alexandria, Virginia.

Through a deed dated January 29, 1863, Oliver Cromwell Pulman purchased a tract of land known as "Valley Farm" from George F. Adams and his wife Catharine Adams of Baltimore, Maryland for \$1,500. Valley Farm was located on Route 1 at the present day intersection of Huntington Avenue and Richmond Highway near the Great Hunting Creek on the border of Fairfax County and Alexandria. The area had been known as Valley Farm since at least 1854.

When Oliver Cromwell Pulman died, his property passed onto his wife, Mary Elizabeth Pulman. When she died in 1901, the estate went to chancery court. The Pulmans owned properties located in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria, which the court deemed practically impossible to divide evenly between the six entitled heirs. The court settled the estate through an auction of the properties, dividing the proceeds evenly amongst the family members.

Oliver Sidney Pulman purchased Valley Farm at the auction on May 6, 1902, for \$3,500. At the time of the sale, Valley Farm consisted of about 34 ½ acres, which contained a seven room frame house, a five room frame house, and a small corn house and woodshed. Oliver's son, James F. Pullman married Albertine B. Ross on July 7, 1924, in Washington, D.C. Albertine Ross was born on May 26, 1905 in New Hampshire to Parmelie and Louis Ross. On March 7, 1927, Pullman's mother, Kate Pulman, gave the newly-weds a 1.78-acre portion of Valley Farm for them to live on.

James F. Pullman worked as a postal clerk and analyst for the Post Office Department in Washington for many years. In the early 1930s, his wife Albertine owned a beauty shop in Washington, D.C. at 1212 G Street NW. In March 1938, the Washington Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association elected her president of their organization.

James Pullman died of a heart attack on January 11, 1968, at age 73. On May 19, 1971, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honored Albertine Pullman as an outstanding senior citizen. In 1983, she and the other Pullman descendants sold "Valley Farm" to the Huntington Gateway Corp. for redevelopment. Albertine died on March 14, 2005, and she is buried with her husband at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia.

Scope and Content

The James and Albertine Photograph Collection consists of 0.25 linear feet and spans the years c.1902 to 1972. A majority of the photographs depict scenes on the Pullman's family farm, "Valley Farm", located on the border of Fairfax County and Alexandria near the Great Hunting Creek. Photographs include members of James F. Pullman's family: his mother Kate Pullman (1877-1963); his sisters: Nellie Pullman, Cora Pullman, Catherine Pulman, and Mary Hilda Pullman; his cousins the Websters; friends Betty and Herbert Martyn; Albertine Ross Pullman's family: Annabelle Ross and Louis Ross; Ormond Grover Spence (1893-1982) and Thelma L. Spence (1905-1990) and the Spence family in Toronto, Canada; and family pets.

Subjects:

Alexandria (Va.)

Pullman Family

Pullman, Albertine (1905-2005)

Pullman, James F. (1895-1968)

Spence Family

Valley Farm (Fairfax County, Va.)

James and Albertine Pullman Photograph Collection

Creator: Albertine Pullman (1905-2005)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Albertine Pullman	Undated
1	2	Catherine Pullman	Undated
1	3	Cora Pullman	Undated
1	4	James F. Pullman	c. 1920s-1957
1	5	James F. Pullman and Albertine Pullman	1946
1	6	Mount Vernon	1922
1	7	Ormond Grove Spence family and wedding	1965, 1972
1	8	Pullman family	Undated
1	9	Valley Farm – James F. and Albertine Pullman's House	1941-1960
1	10	Valley Farm – Kate Pullman's House	c.1902-1938
1	11	Valley Farm – Pullman family and Webster children	Undated
1	12	Valley Farm – Sewer line installation on Kate Pullman's Farm	Undated
1	13	Unidentified	1927-1950